



Wood Science and Tropical Forest Ecology

Guest Editor:

Dr. Hans Beeckman

Service of Wood Biology, Royal
Museum for Central Africa
(RMCA), Leuvensesteenweg 13,
3080 Tervuren, Belgium

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Message from the Guest Editor

Tropical forests stockpile more than half of the terrestrial organic carbon. Wood science provides key information on forest ecosystems, since 98% of the forest biomass is lignified. Different topics involve wood science in a very explicit way.

(1) Models estimating the carbon fluxes are fed with information on tree performance, linked to wood traits and properties, such as wood density.

(2) Carbon sequestration processes can also be studied using retrospective growth analysis of pith-to-bark samples and through vegetation reconstructions from fossil wood and charcoal.

(3) Wood technological endeavors provide the best understanding of which timber qualities are optimally-suited to which applications, and, as such, help to avoid wasting valuable materials.

(4) Public concern for the fate of tropical forests has resulted in the creation of a number of mechanisms assuring biodiversity conservation and sustainable production of goods and services.

Implementation and enforcement of these mechanism very often involve identification of the botanical species through wood analysis.





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Forests Editorial Office
MDPI, St. Alban-Anlage 66
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